



City of Fairfax

Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne

City Council

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February 22, 2013

The Mayor and City Council Invite Your Input on a Proposed Alternative for the Provision of Water Service to the City of Fairfax

Dear City of Fairfax Water Customers:

The most important mission of the City of Fairfax is to provide the best possible services to its citizens at the lowest possible cost. The City of Fairfax takes great pride in its independence, its high level of service and responsiveness, and its sense of community. We are able to provide this while still having one of the lowest tax and fee burdens throughout the entire Washington, D.C. region.

The City also has a long history of contracting with Fairfax County for other services, including educating our children, maintaining our courts and providing health and human services, where the economies of scale result in the benefit of services at lower costs. We continually evaluate these contractual programs and opportunities that benefit us all. One such opportunity is before us now.

On April 9, 2013, we will consider the approval of a framework for an agreement with Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) to provide water service to all City of Fairfax residents and businesses within the City and throughout the City's current service areas in Fairfax County. As part of this agreement, the City will sell a portion of its water assets to Fairfax Water. Fairfax Water will also be responsible for the delivery of water, customer service operations and any repairs to the system.

For City water customers, the agreement would result in:

- Significant savings to all customers
- Near-term stabilization and long-term reduction in water rates for all City customers

- Allow the City to participate in Fairfax Water's state-of-the-art water treatment system that provides high quality water through existing technology at its facilities
- Eliminate the need for immediate capital expenditures of \$45 million to upgrade the City's existing water treatment system as well as additional extensive and expensive long-term capital expenditures on the water transmission pipeline, the City's water distribution system, and the dam at the City's reservoir

Historically, the City has viewed control of its independent water system as an asset, as well as a point of civic pride. As you may remember, approximately one year ago the City solicited public comment on alternatives to the City's continued operation of its Loudoun County water treatment facilities. After a dialogue with residents, a decision was made that the City would remain in the water treatment business.

Since that decision was made, however, recent developments, including pending litigation, the potential loss of non-residential customers and the continually rising costs associated with upgrading City facilities, necessitated another review. The proposed agreement with Fairfax Water now under discussion provides significantly lower water costs for City residents and businesses and ensures a high quality water supply for generations to come.

We believe that the proposed plan and the resulting sale of a portion of the City's water facilities, which will provide funding for the cost of the "buy-in" with Fairfax Water, are in the best interests of all City residents.

A fact sheet summarizing the issues will be mailed to you soon and a section on the City website will be established to help answer questions about the proposed agreement. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/water> will be accessible in the near future.

Two community outreach meetings have been scheduled to share information with the public. The first is scheduled for Thursday evening March 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center. The second will be held Saturday morning, April 6, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. also at the Sherwood Community Center. We have scheduled a public hearing and will consider approving the framework of an agreement, at the regular City Council meeting scheduled for April 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

We welcome any questions you may have and look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



R. Scott Silverthorne
Mayor



Michael J. DeMarco
Councilman



Daniel F. Drummond
Councilman



Jeffrey C. Greenfield
Councilman



David L. Meyer
Councilman



Eleanor D. Schmidt
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